

MONTEREY COUNTY LABOR NEWS

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WHOLE No. 485

Successful Wage Drive First Round in Fight Against T-H Bill

An immediate and substantial wage increase is a pressing necessity for workers. Their purchasing power is being cut every week by inflationary price rises. But the efforts of the workers to get another round of justifiable wage increases runs into the cunningly devised traps of the Taft-Hartley law. By hamstringing unions and making a mockery of collective bargaining, the Taft-Hartley law has become the prime instrument of employers in fighting unions and preventing wage raises.

The year-end edition of the Journal of Commerce—one of the major spokesmen for big business—ran an article on how Taft-Hartley provisions can be used by employers in combatting wage demands. More than that, the Journal emphasized that Taft-Hartley can be used to cut wages under the guise of "cost cutting."

According to the Journal, "the Taft-Hartley Act will aid employers who are seeking types of cost-cutting clauses" (read this as "wage-cutting"). The Journal then illustrated how this could be accomplished with Taft-Hartley techniques.

One way is to repudiate clauses in union contracts that protect wages and conditions from the menace of allocating jobs to open shop contractors and sub-contractors. This hits directly at the workers in the plant covered by the union contract. At the same time, this will encourage non-union sub-contractors and the diversion of work to runaway shops.

A second way is to make use of the so-called "anti-featherbedding" restrictions of the Taft-Hartley law. Contract provisions, for example, calling for use of only one worker on a certain machine, or the maintenance of a minimum work contingent on an operation, can now be scrapped by employers. This means speedup, greater health and accident hazards and less employment.

Finally, Taft-Hartley enables employers to resist and disregard industry-wide and plant-wide collective bargaining. Thus, in fighting for wage increases, the workers and their unions are crippled from the beginning, since they are not permitted to exercise their full economic strength to protect their interests.

CAN'T WAIT FOR CONGRESS

The fight against Taft-Hartley, therefore, cannot wait for a change in Congress, since that means the workers would have to forego wage increases they need desperately and need right now. The wage fight is inextricably tied up with the fight to preserve unionism and the right of collective bargaining, by fighting against Taft-Hartley right down the line. The notion that unions can live with the Taft-Hartley provisions is being exposed as a phony every day. Taft-Hartley was expressly designed to cripple the union labor movement; and right now, as the Journal of Commerce revealed, this vicious law will be used as a major weapon in the campaign of the employers to defeat the demands of workers for a third round of wage increases.

Recognition of this fact by workers and their unions is essential if the fight for the third round is to be successful. The first plank in any anti-inflation program

is a substantial wage increase for workers. They must at least partially catch up with inflationary prices if they are to maintain decent living standards.

A big business-dominated Congress won't do a thing to halt the price spiral if the employers can get away with defeating the wage demands of the workers. Conversely, a successful wage increase drive can become the beginning of large-scale pressure by the people on Congress and the Truman administration to do something about inflation.

If the workers simply wait for prices to come down, they will have to accept lower living standards, since inflation will then not be stopped except by an economic bust. Instead, the workers must protect their living standards by using their own strength to win wage increases. In the present setup, that means they must start fighting now against Taft-Hartley if they are to get anywhere.

Broadcast Labor's Plans for '48

Washington.—Spokesmen for all the big labor political leagues will be heard in a network broadcast Saturday, January 24, in mid-afternoon.

Columbia Broadcasting System will carry the program, "What Are Labor's Plans for the 1948 Elections?" It is scheduled for 3:00 to 3:30 Pacific time. To be heard will be unionists talking on behalf of Labor's League for Political Education, CIO Political Action Committee, Machinists Non-Partisan Political League, and Railway Labor's Political League.

Australian Plans Tolerance Film

Sydney.—To show how white and colored children can work and play together without friction, the New South Wales education minister, Robert Heffron, plans to make a documentary film for mass distribution here. This action followed a ban on colored children at two country-side schools.

"Colored children," said an education spokesman, "are the equal of whites in morals, cleanliness, intelligence, scholarship, sportsmanship, punctuality and general behavior."

Children at a number of schools have formed clubs to promote tolerance. They wear badges bearing a picture of a white girl and a colored boy.

The government's consumer price index hit an all-time high in mid-September—66.1 per cent over August 1939.

No Conciliation For Non-Filing Unions Under T-H

Washington.—Cyrus S. Ching, director of the new Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, has bowed low before the Taft-Hartley law and the Congress which put it on the statute books. He said the offices of his agency would not be open to unions failing to comply with the slave law's filing requirements except under special circumstances.

Reorganized as a new outfit outside the Labor Department by the Taft-Hartley Act, and headed by an industry spokesman of years standing, the FM&CS is supposed to try to bring parties together before strikes take place. Failing that, it is designed to speed settlement of disputes once work has been stopped.

The Ching ruling declares the agency's services will not be available where the employer disputes the right of the union to act for his employees. This dispute can be based on the union's failure to knuckle under to the filing requirements, or on the presence of a competing union, or on other grounds.

The statement said, however, that in a labor dispute "which imperils the national safety and health and therefore is subject to the national emergency provisions and procedures of the Taft-Hartley law" it would continue to lend a hand, filing or no filing.

Ching added that his service "cannot, of course, make its facilities available where to do so might result in circumvention or defeat of the legislative policies" expressed in the Taft-Hartley Act.

The legislative policies of the law, therefore, are dominant over the purposes of the new mediation service, which are purportedly to promote industrial peace. Disputes involving such non-filing unions as the United Mine Workers (unaffiliated), United Steelworkers (CIO), and the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers (CIO) would get no help from Ching's outfit unless the employer admitted their right to represent the workers, or unless the situation were so grave as to threaten the national safety and health.

Are You Registered?

(Release from State Fed. of Labor)
San Francisco.—Results of checks made throughout the state indicate that a disconcertingly large number of the members of our unions are not registered voters.

The planning of any program to improve the condition of labor and to protect its interests becomes meaningless if the members of the trade unions are not registered so they can cast a vote in the election to bring this about.

There is no excuse whatsoever for any member of a trade union who is qualified to vote not to be a registered voter and not to exercise his electoral rights in the election.

The Federation calls upon every member of the affiliated organizations to make it his business to become a registered voter if he is not one already, and to see that the members of his family as well as his friends will also be able to vote.

Register at once if you have not already done so.
Be sure to register!

Construction Workers Win Schenectady Strike

Schenectady, N. Y.—Members of four AFL building trades unions, who had been on strike here for five days, returned to work with pay boosts ranging from 12½ to 15 an hour.

The 1,900 unionists were employed chiefly on the General Electric Company's \$20 million turbine plant and \$8 million research laboratory and on the \$2 million St. Clare's hospital. Other smaller building projects were also affected.

Unions involved were the carpenters, lathers, masons and laborers.

Aussie Unionists Object To U.S. Control of Steel

Sydney.—The West Australia Liberal party caused a howl of protest from unionists by inviting U. S. big business to take control of the state's iron and steel industry. The state's parliament, under Liberal party control, has passed a bill for the development of its rich iron ore deposits by a company in which Australian shares are limited to 48 per cent, which means control of the basic industry, goes to U. S. steel interests.

PETRILLO WINS LEA ACT FIGHT

Chicago.—The anti-labor Lea act took a beating in court as President James C. Petrillo of the American Federation of Musicians (AFL) was found not guilty of government charges that he criminally violated the law.

After the verdict was announced, Petrillo's lawyer, Daniel D. Carmell, said gleefully: "The essence of this decision is that the Lea act is dead."

U. S. District Judge Walter J. La Buy said the government had failed to prove that Petrillo violated the act by calling a strike in May 1946 against radio station WAAF because it refused to double its staff of three union members.

La Buy's decision closed the case, which was begun by the government more than a year ago in its first application of the Lea act. On December 2, 1946, La Buy dismissed a similar charge against Petrillo and branded certain sections of the act unconstitutional. In June 1947 the U. S. supreme court overruled La Buy on the constitutionality issue and ordered him to retry the case on its merits.

La Buy noted that a letter from Petrillo to the radio station requesting it to hire three more men was "unaccompanied by threats of the use of force, violence, intimidation or duress." The act prohibits coercion of a broadcaster to hire more persons than are needed "to perform actual services."

While the judge said he believed the three additional musicians were not needed by the station, which uses records and transcriptions 90 per cent of the time, no evidence was presented "to show that defendant had knowledge of or was informed of the lack of need for additional employees prior to this case," he pointed out.

Immediately after the decision was read, Petrillo, smiling broadly, was surrounded by friends and well-wishers offering congratulations. He said the verdict "puts a little different light on the situation in connection with the radio contract which we are negotiating. When we ask in good faith for musicians that are needed, they can't say we are violating the Lea act."

"This decision will help them understand we can ask for more men—I mean men who will work, not standbys."

Petrillo then left for New York, where he met with representatives of the major radio networks to negotiate a new contract to replace the one which expires January 31. At issue in the negotiations are union demands for a wage increase and more jobs for musicians, plus jurisdiction over platform turners, who turn records for disc jockeys. Management counter-demands include the right to broadcast standard music programs over FM stations without extra pay to musicians.

Frey Hits Navy Wage Policy

Washington.—The U. S. navy has not only set up an amazingly inconsistent schedule of wage rates for navy yard workers but it has moved backward in denying labor's right to be heard on wage policy through the Navy Wage Review Board, President John P. Frey of the AFL Metal Trades Department said.

The AFL official said that the November orders setting wages in the yards denied any hourly wage raises in one yard and reduced 19 classifications from .04 to .08 hourly. Yet in another yard, he said, the schedule called for raises ranging between .14 and .25.

Frey said that last June the navy abolished the review board without notifying its labor members of the action, a body which had advised navy yard commanders on suitable pay scales since being set up in 1921. It returned to the formula set by law in 1922, which provided wages conforming, as far as possible, "with those of private establishments in the immediate vicinity of the respective yards."

Aside from leaving the standards vague, Frey commented, the present navy policy "has undermined the confidence of navy yard employees, a confidence which it is necessary to have restored if our navy yards are to continue to attract the highly skilled workmen required."

"The present unrealistic and autocratic attitude of the Navy Department is unacceptable to free American workmen who, long ago, won their right in private industry and in most government departments employing civilian mechanics to have an adequate voice in the discussion and consideration of their terms of employment and conditions of labor."

Only Unity Will Defeat Reaction

Washington.—There are approximately 115 Congressional districts in the country represented by Democrats and Republicans who voted for the Taft-Hartley Act and who won office BY MARGINS OF NOT MORE THAN TEN PER CENT.

Of these 115 Representatives, a possible 70 or perhaps 75 are in areas wherein organized labor of the AFL, CIO and Brotherhoods, could join with the Progressive Citizens of America, Americans for Democratic Action and the new third party movement to oust the reactionaries. Whether the liberals and labor will unite to do the job each wants done remains to be determined in the party primaries and next November's general election.

A map and complete breakdown of these areas will appear in a forthcoming article in the New Republic. It should be worth the attention of every thinking American.

New Orleans Not So Tolerant When Freedom Train Comes

By DILLARD OAKES

New Orleans.—An elaborate scheme by which the New Orleans Board of Education jimmied public school children visiting the Freedom Train despite a definite understanding that discrimination would not be tolerated was revealed here when a police provocation resulted in the unwarranted arrest of three Negro teachers.

The arrests came on the second and last day of the Freedom Train's visit here, when 757 Negro children of the Booker T. Washington School arrived at 11:30 a.m. and waited in line to enter the train.

As the 4 p.m. closing time drew near and the children were still waiting in line, they became restless. C. L. Speaker, a teacher of mechanical drawing, was at the head of the group outside the gate when a policeman shoved him violently and ordered him to "Get on back there, you!"

At Speaker's mild protest, the cop pressed his assault and five more policemen came running while two other teachers, Maurice E. Prevost and Bruce C. Neale, hurried to try to bring peace to the scene.

As the Freedom Train gates closed, the three teachers were arrested and hauled to a police station where they were charged with refusing to move on and resisting arrest. Prevost and Neale were also charged with interfering with the police.

Inquiry into the situation revealed that although Freedom Train officials had received the assurance of city officials that there would be no discrimination, the Board of Education ordered white schools to be taken in a body to see the train on the first day and the morning of the second day of its visit. The remainder of the second day was allotted to the children in the Negro schools, thus causing great overcrowding in the final hours of the train's visit.

The three teachers were released without bond and ordered to stand trial.

Philippine Views Undergo Change

Manila.—The recent conference of the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East caused some significant shifts in Philippine opinion.

Before the conference, the Philippine press carried a welter of stories predicting its downfall because of Soviet obstruction. During the conference, however, Russia emerged as the only major power supporting the demands of the colonial countries for independence and industrialization. As a result, the conservative Manila Times said:

"It is easy to blame the Russians for their obstructive tactics. But a study of the obstructionism of the Soviet delegate reveals that, among other things, he obstructed unsuccessfully an effort to unseat a delegation representing some 50 million people; that he unsuccessfully obstructed an attempt to permit a single colonial power to retain within its hands full control of food distribution for Asia and the Far East."

"So Australia and The Netherlands who fought (successfully) against the Philippine resolution on food; and Australia, The Netherlands, and the United States, among others, who fought successfully against the seating of the Indonesians, could be called obstructive."

Hopes Labor Will Drop Wage Demand If Prices Checked

Washington.—In spite of the announced intention of organized labor to press for substantial wage increases, Labor Secretary Lewis B. Schwellenbach told the Senate banking committee he believes labor will voluntarily hold off wage demands if Congress checks today's inflationary rise in prices.

"But I have little hope that organized labor will be able to refrain from asking sizeable wage increases if such assurances are not given," the cabinet member told senators as he plugged S. 1888, the Barkley bill containing the price and wage control features of President Truman's anti-inflation program.

Schwellenbach emphasized that government must be given some power to halt prices, which he said have been climbing steadily since he first defended the Truman proposals to the special session of Congress in November. To the same extent that prices are controlled, he maintained, wages must likewise be held down where "they enter directly and substantially into the cost of production."

But he said the bill introduced by Sen. Alben Barkley (D., Ky.), minority floor leader, "gives wide opportunity for the use of negotiations to reach voluntary agreements between management and labor before the mandatory wage ceilings are invoked." Power to set ceilings on wages under the Truman-Barkley proposal would be in the hands of a Temporary Wage Stabilization Board, made up of six presidential appointees—two each from the public, employers and employees.

Schwellenbach said he did not favor the strong bill (S. 1925) introduced by Sen. Glen Taylor (D., Ida.) which would fight inflation by price control and rationing of all commodities essential to living costs. "The time consumed in building up the necessary organization for across-the-board price control would be so great that I do not think that solution would be satisfactory to anybody," he said.

NEED MORE U. S. MONEY FOR LABOR RELATIONS UNDER T-H LAW

Washington.—Congress must appropriate much more money to promote labor relations under the Taft-Hartley law than was necessary before the Wagner Act was hatched, figures in President Truman's budget and accompanying data showed.

"On the basis of case-load forecasts, an estimated \$12,875,000 will be needed for the NLRB's work during the fiscal year 1949," the official budget analysis said. But the President asked Congress for only \$9.4 million, designed to last from June 30, 1948 until April 1, 1949, while the Budget Bureau sees how much work the slave-labor law board will handle.

The estimate of \$12.8 million stands in sharp contrast to the scant \$4.5 million which the NLRB was given to operate on in its last full year under the untampered Wagner Act, from June 1946 to June 1947. Last session, of the GOP Congress gave the NLRB nearly \$6 million to enforce the Taft-Hartley law until June 1948.

Where the money would go is shown by an NLRB forecast of 80,000 cases of all types, of which half involve the holding of union shop elections. Aside from its duties holding over from Wagner Act days, the board will have to investigate charges and enforce penalties involving six Taft-Hartley law clauses covering so-called unfair labor practices by unions.

Injunction work and following through appeals in federal courts will also run up the costs of the new law, the analysis shows.

Truckers File Complaint Two Months After Strike

San Francisco.—The Taft-Hartley Act was used by the Truck Owners Association here to try to kick the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (AFL) in the teeth retroactively. The association filed an NLRB complaint against the union because drivers struck in November 1947 when the companies would not guarantee a minimum 10-hour pay daily on long hauls.

Teamster Attorney Matthew Tobiner pointed out: "The strike is over and the largest employers are paying the rate we asked. This is a perfect example of the bureaucracy which is the product of the Taft-Hartley Act."

RETROACTIVE SOCIAL SECURITY GRANTED IN PACKING PLANTS

The social security rights of 50,000 employees of California dried fruit, fresh fruit and vegetable packing plants were effectively safeguarded under a Treasury Department ruling received this week by Arthur L. Johnson, San Jose attorney, from Internal Revenue Commissioner George J. Schoeneman at Washington. It was dated December 31, 1947.

The ruling makes it mandatory for all commercial packers of fresh or dried fruits or vegetables, in all cases where the farmer has parted with his economic interest in the product, to pay the 1 per cent social security tax for the employees and the 1 per cent social security payroll tax on the employer in the future and on all payrolls back to October 1, 1947. This is 25 days after the time for appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court expired after the decision of the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit at San Francisco holding the nation's 20,000 dried fruit packing house workers to be "commercial" rather than "agricultural" under the 1939 amendments to the Social Security Act. This decision was rendered on June 25, 1947, in the companion test cases brought by Attorney Johnson on behalf of the workers through Lucina A. Bettencourt of Santa Clara in the Northern California District Court and by Attorney W. H. Stammer of Fresno on behalf of two of the largest packers, California Packing Corporation and Rosenberg Bros. & Company, through James F. Burger of Fresno in the Southern California District Court, in both of which cases Attorney Johnson appeared on behalf of the workers, in the lower courts and on appeal, and which resulted in the ruling which the Treasury Department has now extended to the fresh fruit and vegetable packing houses in addition to the dried fruit plants.

Forgiveness of the taxes prior to October 1, 1947 is conditioned upon the employer filing informational returns with the Internal Revenue Bureau giving the names, social security numbers and the amounts paid to each employer for each quarter for which such a return has not been filed, with the proviso that an employer "is not required" to file a return for any period with respect to which the statutory period of limitations has expired. This means, as Attorney Johnson explains it, that the employers in question are not required to go back for more than four years from the time the tax was due in the filing of these informational returns, but may do so if they so desire. All the main employers involved in Northern California have assured Johnson that they will voluntarily file such returns for the additional four year period in question, so as to give all of their employees full social security credits at the Baltimore office of the Social Security Administration for the entire eight years or thirty-two quarters that have been missed by these employers who had considered themselves "agricultural" employers under previous Treasury Department rulings.

Mr. Johnson estimated that California employers will have to pay back taxes of some \$250,000 under the ruling just received, but pointed out that they have escaped hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxes during the eight years the law was allowed to remain in doubt until the clarifying court decisions were obtained. The 50,000 employees involved will, on the other hand, Mr. Johnson estimated, profit to the extent of increased social security retirement checks of \$20 to \$30 more per month than they now receive, if they have already retired, or if the worker has died leaving minor children under 18, or total checks of from \$40 to \$60 per month after they reach the retirement age of 65, or around \$150,000,000 in total benefits for the 50,000, figuring that each will draw an average of \$3000 after he reaches the retirement age.

The new interpretation of the Treasury Department does not affect canneries. Canneries were specifically named in the 1939 amendment to the Social Security Act as taxable and have participated in the social security program since its inception.

Green Endorses Truman Program

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Green called the speech "a liberal program calculated in most respects to meet the needs and desires of the American people."

The AFL, he said, "specifically endorses the social justice program offered by the President, including broader social security, a long-range housing program, insurance against the costs of medical care, lifting of the minimum wage level and the protection of the civil rights of racial and religious minorities."

"We share the President's deep concern over the alarming progress of inflation and join in his demand for prompt action to halt increasing living costs. 'His tax reduction proposals are far more acceptable than any plan yet offered in Congress because they afford equal relief to all taxpayers.'"

Green closed by saying "labor was particularly pleased by the President's strong reiteration of his opposition to the Taft-Hartley act, the evils of which will become increasingly manifest in the months to come."

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On Again, Off Again Hartley

Washington.—Rep. Fred A. Hartley (R., N. J.) has changed his mind once more.

Last summer Hartley told everybody who'd listen that he was determined not to seek re-election in 1948. At that time he vigorously denied rumors that the New Jersey subsidiary of the National Association of Manufacturers had offered him a fine job... because of his efforts in their behalf.

Then a few weeks ago Hartley said he could be drafted to run again, and indicated it was a matter of Republican prestige. But January 11 he announced he has definitely decided to step aside this fall. He made no mention in this announcement that he might be willing to accept designation as the GOP vice-presidential candidate this year.

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The chairman of the House Labor Committee recalled that "it is a matter of record that I trounced the combined organized opposition of the CIO, AFL and PCA in 1942, 1944 and 1946." But Hartley's statement lacked any prediction that he could beat the combined AFL-CIO and liberal vote this fall.

DON'T GAMBLE WITH INERTIA!



When you don't REGISTER and VOTE, you are gambling with your future and that of your children, and there is no percentage in it. Your union card and your ballot on election day are twin weapons in fighting for security and abundance for all working people. To neglect your vote is to wipe out the gains from your union card. Remember the Taft-Hartley Act? GET REGISTERED!

MONTEREY COUNTY LABOR NEWS

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ments or signed communications printed herein.

Electing State Senators

An initiative petition, sponsored by the California State Federation of Labor, is now being circulated and the proposition it proposes should appear on the ballot in the coming November election. The advocated law would amend the present undemocratic method of electing state senators in California. Under the present plan no county is permitted to have more than one state senator. This gives Los Angeles, San Francisco and Alameda Counties, with half the population of the state, only one state senator for each. The other half of the population gets the remaining 37 state senators, as there are forty all told.

Under the proposed new measure districts are fixed by population up to a maximum for heavily-populated counties of ten members. In case the population of any county should exceed one-fourth of the population of the entire state, no matter how much the percentage may go over, that county will still be allowed only ten members in the State Senate. As matters now stand a small minority of the people of the state can completely block legislation, no matter how badly it may be needed.

There is no valid excuse nor any justification for permitting this present undemocratic method of preventing majority rule in our State Legislature. Let us change it by signing the initiative petition now and voting for the new plan next November.

Importance of Registering

Although any citizen may go to the court house of his county any week-day and be registered, it nevertheless has almost invariably happened that fully half of those who have all the qualifications required to be a voter nonetheless lose their right to vote by failing to get registered at least forty days before the day of the election.

This staggering high percentage of citizens who disfranchise themselves by failing to register has puzzled many ardent champions of democracy. To add to the confusion, it frequently happens that more than half of those who are registered fail to go to the polls and vote or fail to send in their vote by mail, as every registered voter may do in case he cannot appear at his voting place in person.

The purpose of this reminder is to bring home to all qualified persons who read this, the duty they owe to themselves to be registered—and to actually get out and vote on election day. Are you registered from where you now live? If not, do not permit another week to pass without attending to this important duty. The primary in June is of even more importance than the election in November, for it is at the primaries that you decide who shall be candidates.

How Much Democracy?

Let us get this straight. How much democracy exists in any country at any time or place? Let us answer this for the United States, where we are supposed to really have it.

As a matter of actual fact we cannot possibly have any more democracy than is practiced. Wherever it is accepted and really lived we have it. Where it is just talked about or merely dreamed about, but never translated into action, we have it not.

Too much of our so-called democracy begins and ends with talk. Without performance such democracy is dead and valueless and until it blossoms into action it might as well not exist. It is as abortive as a seed that never sprouts nor grows.

Here in the United States democracy could be a far more dominant and living force than it is. Only to the extent that it functions does it shape the destiny of this or any other land. It is up to all of us to help make our democracy function.

Will Russia Pull Out?

There has been considerable speculation over the prediction in some quarters that the United Nations is slated for its demise in the near future because the Soviet Union will withdraw and convert the world into two armed camps struggling for supremacy. *United Nations World*, in a lead editorial in the current issue, has this to say about it:

"The favorite argument of those who have so often predicted the death of the U.N. is that the USSR will withdraw from the world organization. This is, of course, in complete contradiction to historic precedent. The policy of Soviet Russia has always been to remain in any organization in which she had accepted membership until the bitter end."

Another reason why the USSR will probably stick with the U.N. to the "bitter end" is that if she pulled out she would lose the greatest forum on earth in which to present her viewpoint. Whatever is said in the U.N. is world news and is reported by the world's press and radio. Without this opportunity to get publicity for its ideas on international questions, the USSR would be at a great disadvantage. Predictions of failure for the United Nations frequently come from people who wish this peace assembly to fizzle.

Defeat of T-H Supporters Goal Of Labor Vets

Chicago (LPA) — The National Conference of Union Labor Legionnaires has called in its leading members to plan the establishment of veterans committees throughout the nation to defeat congressional supporters of the Taft-Hartley Act. President Henry Geisz announced last week. Conference AFL, CIO and Railroad Brotherhood committeemen are expected to attend a special meeting of the Labor Legionnaires' board called for Chicago January 31 and February 1. Chairman of the Conference's AFL committee is C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the California State Federation of Labor. Other members are James McDevitt, president, Pennsylvania Federation of Labor; Irvin Kuenzi, general secretary, American Federation of Teachers; Edward S. Miller, general secretary, Hotel, Restaurant Workers; and E. J. Atkinson, manager, Chicago Motion Picture Operators Union.

CIO committeemen are Richard Reisinger, UAW regional director (chairman); Meyer Bernstein, CIO Veterans' committee; Paul Schnur, secretary-treasurer, San Francisco IUC; Fred Piper, New Orleans CIO representative; and Tom Neil, UE Veterans' Committee.

Railroad Brotherhood representatives are G. D. Houser, Chicago representative, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen (chairman); Robert McQuinn, Chicago secretary, Brotherhood of Railway Clerks; and L. C. McCann, Los Angeles representative, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.

T-H Strikes Loom In '48, Says BLS

Washington. — Wages were the chief cause of strikes in 1947, but controversies over the application of the Taft-Hartley law will loom more important as a strike cause in 1948, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said in a review of the industrial dispute record for the past year.

Many strikes "centered about the sharp increases in living costs encountered by wage earners," BLS said, adding: "Toward the close of the year some controversies emphasized issues arising out of certain provisions of the Taft-Hartley law."

It followed up by saying that many union contracts were signed in the first half of 1947 and issues which might arise over the law would not normally appear until these agreements expire this year, or in some cases even later.

During 1947 the BLS record showed about 2.2 million workers were involved in stoppages, losing an estimated 35 million man-days from the job, or four-tenths of one per cent of the estimated working time.

This record was far more peaceful than in 1946, year of the big postwar stoppages, when nearly twice as many workers went out, losing more than three times as much working time.

Almost half of the year's man-days on strike were accounted for by three big battles: the nationwide strike of the National Federation of Telephone Workers (unaffiliated), later re-formed as Communications Workers of America; the East Coast strike of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers (CIO) and a brief stoppage in bituminous fields by the United Mine Workers (unaffiliated).

Newark Schools Ban the 'Nation'

Newark, N.J.—The Nation, a weekly liberal magazine, has been barred from Newark's high school libraries because of a recent series of articles it carried criticizing some aspects of Catholicism. Subscriptions to The Nation were cancelled by School Superintendent John V. Herron.

Herron said he took the action after a number of Catholic parents complained against the Nation series written by Paul Blanshard, who was commissioner of investigation for New York under Mayor F. H. LaGuardia.

"I cannot countenance such articles as The Nation carried any more than I could countenance articles containing anti-Protestant, anti-Negro, or anti-Semitic material," Herron said. He refused to comment on a prompt charge by Freda Kirchwey, editor of The Nation, that his action was "a form of censorship which dangerously infringes on the right of high school students to learn facts and hear conflicting opinions—even about so politically powerful a body as the Roman Catholic church."

The Blanshard articles, she said, were not, "as Mr. Herron charges, attacks upon the fundamental religious principles of the Catholic church." They exposed and criticized Roman Catholic doctrine as it affects various fields of conduct—in medical practice, in education, in regard to marriage, divorce and birth control—that are directly the concern of the state and of our people generally.

THE MARCH OF LABOR



L.A. PRINTING SPECIALTIES CASE SHOWS VICIOUS INTENT OF T-H LAW

(Release from State Federation of Labor)

San Francisco. — The vicious possibilities of the Taft-Hartley Act came to light in proceedings brought by employers and the Labor Board for enforcement of the law in cases now pending in Los Angeles involving the Printing Specialties and Paper Converters' Union, Local 388, AFL. The State Federation of Labor, through attorney Clarence E. Todd, is cooperating in the defense of this action.

Arguments presented by the National Labor Relations Board before the District Court were so far-reaching and destructive of the constitutional right of concerted action by workers that they disclosed frankly and dangerously what the Act will mean to the unions.

The action developed when a complaint was filed by an employer stating that the union which is on strike demanding the same wages which are paid throughout the industry in Southern California, was picketing and threatening to picket the products of the employer in the hands of certain carriers. The complaint was exactly the same as in the Blaney Case, in which the Supreme Court of California recently decided that a union had a constitutional right to picket the unfair products of the employer.

In this case, the complaint was filed under the provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act, and the U. S. District Court for the Southern District of California was asked to issue an injunction to prevent the picketing of the unfair products. When the motion for the injunction came up for argument, the attorneys for the Labor Board had not filed any points and authorities, or any legal arguments or statements whatever to support the petition for an injunction, although the rules of court provide that points and authorities must be served and filed before the argument. Attorneys for the union were entirely in the dark as to the position of the Labor Board.

The Federation attorney presented to the court the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States holding definitely and in unmistakable language that peaceful picketing pursuant to a labor dispute is a constitutional right, and that while in certain instances picketing has been restrained where it did not arise out of a legitimate dispute or where the picketing went beyond the constitutional limitation, the rule is clear that picketing of an unfair product is definitely protected as a constitutional right.

The contentions of the Labor Board clearly stated the anti-labor theory based on the following points: That the Labor Board is determined to suppress picketing of an unfair product in spite of decisions of the highest courts that such picketing is proper and constitutional; and that it was the intent of Congress in passing the Taft-Hartley Bill, and is the intent of the Labor Board in enforcing the law, that no economic action of the workers will be recognized as lawful except where it is directed against the particular employer.

The position of the Labor Board is very plain, and that is that no economic pressure can be exerted by a union in the protection of the rights of its members except against the employer of the particular employees who are making the demand. This was the intent and spirit of the "Hot Cargo" Act, which cost labor many years of struggle, and which ended in such a sweeping decision by the Supreme Court that the entire act is unconstitutional.

This limitation of a labor conflict to an employer and his own employees, as stated by the Labor Board, is nothing but a throwback to the old law in the old days prior to the recognition of the constitutional right of a union to carry

FRENCH FILM INDUSTRY HIT BY U.S. PACT

By HAROLD J. SALEMSON

Hollywood.—Demonstrations reported from Paris against American films, and allegedly Communist-inspired, were actually the work of the Committee for the Defense of French Films, an all-union group representing the French industry's workers and organized a couple of months ago. Their reaction was inevitable in view of the stifling of French production as a result of the Blum-Byrnes agreements, a result predicted long since in this column.

The new committee points out that in 1938 France produced 140 films, in 1946 only 80 and at the end of 1947 only 12 were in production (for an estimated annual total of only 35 to 40); over 50 per cent of French film workers are unemployed (most of them permanently); far from reducing the number of American pix in France, under the B-B agreement, 336 U. S. features were imported during the first half of 1947, against 38 for the first half of 1946; and no French government action has been taken to defend its film workers against the threat to their jobs from foreign invasion.

These are the reasons for the demonstrations, rather than any "Communist-inspired" agitation. With conditions like that, no "inspiration" is needed. The unpopularity of the U. S. and the demonstrations against our films and our policies are the harvest being reaped for the iniquitous contracts shoved down foreign throats by our State Department, fronting for the Johnston Office.

The latter has lifted its ban on export of films to Denmark, following a new agreement covering the three Scandinavian countries, and allowing for withdrawal of part of the U. S. picture take froze there. But Walt Disney has announced to his stockholders that, in an attempt to realize at least some profits abroad, he is looking into a plan for outright sale (for whatever dollars are available) of the rights to his product for various foreign countries. If put into effect, this would constitute a definite step backward in film-rental procedure.

With the foreign situation still growing worse and the prestige of European films rising daily on the American market, Hollywood, harried with these problems and cravenly covering before the threats of the un-American committee, is reaching further new lows in production activity. News from the production front is scarce indeed. Here is some of it:

Frederic March and Florence Eldridge will make *The Judge's Wife* at U-I, following *Another Part of the Forest*. John Huston and Sam Spiegel have organized Horizon Pictures, planning as their first independent production *Dostoevsky's The Idiot*. Huston, brilliant son of actor Walter, has just scored heavily with his direction of *N. Traven's* famous proletarian novel, *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*.

David Selznick and Humphrey Bogart have announced they will carry on with their commitments to the late Mark Hellinger. One of their first projects will be *Willard Motley's Knock on any Door*, to star Gary Cooper, the American boy who made a hit in the Italian picture, *To Live in Peace*. William Wyler has announced postponement of *Theodore Dreiser's Sister Carrie*, which he was to have produced as his first at Paramount. More un-American intimidation?

Orson Welles, who is just completing *Cagliostro* in Rome, had a clause in his contract, it turns out, whereby he directed all scenes in which he appeared, while Gregory Ratoff directed the rest of the film. Welles' next: *Cyrano de Bergerac*, for Korda in London. Meanwhile Hollywood impatiently awaits his two completed works, *The Girl from Shanghai* and *Macbeth*. There is much speculation over Orson's future. Scuttlebutt claims he is washed up in Hollywood. However, it's our guess that when the last two of his films are released, the boy-wonder, who is the greatest thing that hit pictures since Charlie Chaplin was a lad, will again be able to work here. . . .

'Independents' Return

It was only a very few years ago that many employers went out of their way to encourage independent unions in preference to unions affiliated with either the AFL or CIO. Recently up in Massachusetts a shoe manufacturing concern employing 700 workers affiliated with an independent union announced that beginning on a certain Monday the company would operate open shop with a cut in wages. When employers tell their independent unions the honeymoon is over that's a sign they feel collective bargaining is back where it was before the Wagner Act.—Labor News (AFL), Rochester.

The 3.6 per cent rise in food prices from mid-August to mid-September was more than twice the usual seasonal increase at that time of year.

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?



Republican leaders Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg and Senator Robert A. Taft wear broad grins as they discuss the GOP legislative program for '48. Since it will be similar to their '47 record, it seems they must be laughing at the people.

RECOMMEND U.S. LOTTERY INSTEAD OF SALES TAX TO EASE FINANCIAL LOAD

By TRAVIS HEDRICK

Washington, D. C.—Although some of our prim pollyannas haven't dared mention it, and the only mention of the subject has been hushed, apologetic tones, the time is ripe for a U.S. controlled national lottery.

Our peerless statesmen who know about lotteries haven't dared peep about it for fear of censure from the "right thinking" element. And the "right thinking" element is being hurt more than anybody else just because we aren't picking up a financial windfall.

Actually a federal lottery could wipe a lot of those worry-wrinkles off our Uncle Sam's face. And in this era of billion dollar spending, our uncle has worries aplenty.

The lottery is no matter of party politics. We need the dough and rather than face a possible sales tax it deserves serious attention.

Our financial experts say the country's trouble is inflation and there's too much loose cash around in the pockets of free spenders. Free spenders are the gals and guys who keep up the bookmakers, the horse and dog tracks, football and baseball pools.

Millions of dollars go into these gambling ventures each year. They are served by special daily papers, wire services and a web of organizations.

This money, now largely going into the fat wallets of the kingpins of the gambling syndicates, could just as easily go into the treasury vaults supervised by President Truman's Mr. John Snyder.

SCREAM BLOODY MURDER

Since our "right thinking people" raised no particularly successful howl about the gambling syndicates, why should they scream bloody murder if we nationalize the racket for the good of everybody?

To set up such a system, we might have a lottery once each year. Subscriptions could be limited to \$8 billion, in books of \$500 each, with 100 tickets in each book worth \$5 apiece.

Then the "come-on" would be 1,083,600 prizes for books of \$500 each, or 108,360,000 prizes for the \$5 tickets.

Total prize money would run to \$4 billion, and the remaining \$4 billion could be deposited by Mr. Snyder after allowing reasonable expenses for distribution, sale and administration costs.

In addition to being noted for its bluegrass region with its fine stock, Kentucky boasts of its tobacco production, which is second largest in the nation. Corn is the state's second largest crop, its oil production is considerable and its manufacturing, transportation and financial interests are large.

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Japanese Unions Strive for Unity To Beat Inflation

By MAKOTO KAN
Tokyo. — Has the old order in Japan, responsible for incalculable death and destruction throughout Asia, been completely destroyed? Has Japan become a thoroughly democratic nation?
Very definitely not. The old Japan is fighting hard to survive. It has powerful friends in high places and its zealots are simply waiting for a chance to begin a new journey along the road to power and empire.
Today, Japanese big business, which financed and planned Japan's imperialist adventures, is steadily intensifying its pressure on the workers, farmers and middle class. In 1948 Japan's six million organized workers face stern tests—and the outcome will affect profoundly the progress of democracy here.

Since the end of the war the industrialists and bureaucrats have tried to make the people pay the entire cost of defeat by heavy taxation of low-income groups and by forcing down real wages. In devious ways they have sabotaged industrial production and have deliberately encouraged inflation.

The Katayama cabinet, for instance, pegged wages at a level 27 times that prevailing before the war. But the official prices it fixed are 65 times as high as prewar prices. And since goods often are not available on the controlled market, workers must frequently pay the still higher black market prices.

Japanese business is planning to carry out what it calls "enterprise readjustment." This simply means the mass firing of workers. At the same time anti-labor intrigues to split and suppress our new unions are on the increase.

Against this reactionary offensive the Congress of Industrial Unions, which represents over 1,200,000 workers in key industries, is struggling militantly. We are striving for a higher living standard for our people, for labor unity and for joint action with farmers and other groups. In this way we aim to create an indestructible base for democracy in Japan.

We watch with concern and respect the fight of American workers against the Taft-Hartley law and the similar struggles going on in Europe and elsewhere. We seek aid and support from foreign workers and we wish to take part in the world struggle for democracy and peace. Hence our eagerness to join the World Federation of Trade Unions.

We politically-conscious Japanese workers are ashamed that our small prewar unions were unable to prevent the rise of the militarists to power. But the unions which exist today are many times stronger than those which the militarists and big business destroyed in the '30s—and we are determined that it won't happen again.

General Strike Looms in Italy
Rome.—A new Italian general strike is foreshadowed by walkouts now spreading over the country, prompted not only by workers' dissatisfaction with wages and conditions but also by their dislike of Premier Alcide de Gasperi's government.

The present strike wave began when 60,000 bank employees quit their desks as a result of their bosses' refusal to continue last year's contract, which provided for pay increases to meet the rising cost of living. A civil service union of 160,000 government tax collectors has declared it will strike in sympathy. The General Confederation of Labor, with six million members in affiliated unions, has also announced full solidarity with the bank clerks' demands.

Unrest continues in the northern industrial cities and among agricultural workers in the countryside.

Troops sent to keep labor down are refusing to do so. Recently army garrisons in five cities joined the workers in demonstrations.

In five large U. S. cities 18% of the housing occupied by non-whites needs major repairs as compared with 6% of all other units.

With Local 890

GENERAL TEAMSTERS, WAREHOUSEMEN AND HELPERS' UNION
LOCAL 890
Monterey, County
Main and John Streets
Salinas, California

This will inform all of our members that as of January 12, 1948, the Salinas and Carl Cab Companies are under a signed agreement with your Local Union, with the same wages, hours and conditions as contained in the Yellow and Checker Cab agreements. This is a fine agreement, and these companies warrant your patronage. We therefore ask that all members of this Union, as well as members of their families and members of organized labor generally, when calling a taxi, to please give preference of the work to members of our Union by calling the Salinas Cab, Carl Cab, Yellow Cab or Checker Cab Company.

These people are deserving of your patronage. In this manner you can strengthen your Union by making it possible to acquire better wages, hours and conditions, if you channel the money you earn as a result of your Union agreement by patronizing firms that are under agreement with this Union.

HAVE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

We wish to inform all our members that the Beverage Industry in Monterey is under agreement. This involves seven companies and the wages, hours and conditions are the same as contained in the agreements with Valley Distributors and Salinas Soda Works in Salinas. The scale for drivers in the Beverage Industry is \$66 per week.

If you have not registered to vote, DO IT NOW and be eligible when the time comes to cast your ballot.

Attention All Bakery Wagon Drivers: Extra copies of your agreement are available to you at the Union office. We expect all drivers to familiarize themselves with all of the contents of the agreement and to adhere strictly to the starting time as contained in the agreement.

Attention Fluid Milk men employed at the Mission and Golden State Creameries: Your negotiating committee will be called to a meeting, perhaps before you read this column, as a result of a joint meeting being held in San Jose between Locals 296 and 890 and the firms you work for with regards to a new contract. Watch this paper for further notice.

REGISTER TO VOTE—NOW!

Salinas Ice Industry: A preliminary meeting was held on January 13, and your proposals were presented to all of the Ice Industry who were present at this meeting. Another meeting is scheduled for January 20—you will be notified to attend a special meeting on the same question.

Produce Drivers: A meeting is scheduled with the Growers-Shipers immediately after February 1 for the purpose of negotiating your 1948 agreement. Watch this column for further notice.

Members: You can register to vote at the office of the Union.

Attention All Members: At the last regular meeting of your Union which was held in Salinas on Thursday, January 9, the following were nominated for office: Jim Kelley and Ray Burdett for Vice-President, unexpired term to run two years.

Art Bernard and Jerry Burns for Trustee, one three-year term. Elections will be held for these two offices on Thursday, February 5. Voting will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Only members in good standing will be eligible to vote. Remember, this is an official election notice and will appear again in this column next week. We ask every member to take notice.

Manuel Martin was nominated without opposition for Trustee, two-year term.

Nominations as well as the general meeting will be held on the day mentioned, which is Thursday, February 5, at the Carpenters Hall, 422 North Main Street, Salinas. Balloting will be at the office of the Union at Main and John Streets, Salinas, and at the Watsonville office at 315 Alvarado Street—all day February 5.

Important — All Members: We ask all of our members to avoid going delinquent. If you are unable to come in, mail your dues in together with your book and it will be stamped and returned to you, along with a receipt for your payment. You may pay your dues quarterly if you prefer. Keep in good standing!

We ask all our members to report to one of the Business Agents or direct to the office of the Union if you know of anyone driving a truck who is not a member of the Union.

Patronize the following firms: Firestone Stores, San Luis and Monterey Streets. Don Huitz, Alisal and Pajaro. Rhoades Tire Shop, John and

IMPROVE WAGE-HOUR LAW, SAYS OFFICIAL

Washington. — The wage-hour law of 1938 needs overhauling and modernization, not a hatchet job, Administrator William R. McComb made clear in his annual report on the operation of the 1938 law and the older public contracts act.

Submitting his report to Congress at the request of the House labor subcommittee, which had tried to put him on the spot for alleged "inequities" to employers under the laws, McComb pointed out that the 1938 law "contributed in many ways to the prosecution of the war." Its first extended period of peacetime operation is now beginning, he added.

McComb repeated his call, made before the House labor group in November, for a boost in the minimum wage to .75 hourly from its present .40 level. Provisions granting exemptions from overtime pay need to be tightened up, he said, and the use of annual employment agreements should be more positively encouraged in the law.

His report showed that despite a pitifully inadequate staff, thanks to congressional budget cutting, wage-hour and public contracts inspectors had found in the last fiscal year more than \$18 million in wages illegally withheld by employers.

Of the 1.7 million workers in inspected shops, more than 18 percent had been cheated on overtime pay, and as many as 37,000 had been paid less than the legal minimum of .40 an hour, the report said.

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"The public is badly in need of information on high prices," according to the National Industries Conference Board. The NICB prefers to forget that the information is on the shelves of every corner grocery store in the country.

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LOCAL 483 REPORTS



HOTEL AND RESTAURANT
EMPLOYEES & BARTENDERS
ALLIANCE 483
MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA

The members of Locals 467 and 545, Salinas, held a joint party on Tuesday, January 13th, at the Bird's Nest, near the Army Air Base, which was attended briefly by your secretary. Several hundred members of the two locals turned out for the affair, and made it a lively party and a real success.

Meanwhile, our own party chairman, Johnny Midla, announces that he has arranged for the use of the Roseland Ballroom in New Monterey for Local 483's next party, to be held on Sunday, February 8th. It will be a lively and interesting party, says Johnny, with an orchestra, a bar run by the Local, food for all, and lots of fun. Make a note right now to attend the party and, remember, the proceeds go to swell our Welfare and Sick Benefits Fund, which can easily stand some replenishing.

WAGE COMMITTEE

The contract and wage scale committee met on Monday, January 12th, and held a most interesting meeting. Many sections of the present working agreement were discussed and various suggestions put forth for changes, improvements, and so on. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 20th, at 2:30 p.m., at which time the committee hopes to complete its work.

Mr. P. J. Dougherty who, with his son Jack, operated the Casa Munras Hotel, passed away during the past week. Mr. Dougherty had been active in the Monterey Peninsula Area for a great many years, and his passing has been widely noted. The sympathy of Local 483 has been extended to the members of the Dougherty family.

Brother George Adams, an old-timer around Local 483, has taken over the operation of the Derby Lunch at 142 Franklin Street, in Monterey. George's many friends will be interested in knowing that the coffee is hot and the food good and tasty any time they get that hungry feeling and want to stop in for a bite. Naturally, the Union House Card is conspicuously displayed over the counter at The Derby Lunch!

AT PACIFIC GROVE

Pacific Grove now has two restaurants which display shiny, bright new Hotel and Restaurant Employees' Union House Cards. Contracts were signed last week with TOM'S CAFE of 209 Forest Avenue, and the DEL MAR COFFEE SHOP, of 605 Lighthouse Avenue. Tom is no new comer to the business, as he formerly operated the Tasty Cafe in New Monterey (also a Union House). His present place features good Chinese and American food, and is open every day except Tuesday. The Del Mar Coffee Shop is operated by Mr. and Mrs. Griffith Morgan, who have had long experience in the restaur-

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ON THE STATE OF THE UNION



President Truman delivers his annual state of the union message to Congress as Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg (R., Mich.), presiding Senate officer, and House Speaker Joseph A. Martin (R., Mass) listen intently. His broad program for '48 touched off a storm of controversy.

Heller Group Finds Single Woman Needs
\$180 Per Month for 'Wholesome Life'

A budget which would provide her with goods and services generally acknowledged as necessary to health and efficiency would cost a single working woman \$180.40 per month on the basis of San Francisco's September, 1947, prices.

This is the conclusion of the most recent report of the University of California Heller Committee for Research in Social Economics. The budget, the committee says, is definitely designed for a low-income group—for a woman in relatively low-skilled clerical or sales occupation, or in a factory.

"If this seems an anomalous statement to make about a budget that now costs nearly \$2,200 a year for one person, the blame lies on soaring prices during the war and postwar years," the report says. "A standard cannot be considered extravagant which includes such items as one movie a week, three lipsticks a year, and dresses at about \$10 and shoes at about \$6. The budget is not, on the one hand, a mere subsistence budget nor, on the other, an 'optimum' standard. If a woman living alone receives a wage much below the cost of the items specified here, she cannot live a wholesome life in accordance with the standards of the community."

The same items which now cost a single working woman \$2,164.80 a year cost her \$1,127.47 in March of 1941. Greatest relative increase was in the federal income tax, which, on the basis of the 1941 budget, cost the single woman \$8.53; on the basis of the 1947 budget, and with the tax rate increases since 1941, her tax was \$27.5.

BOARD, ROOM COSTS UP

Board and room costs, however, had risen from \$577.76 in 1941 to \$1,058.21 in 1947, the report notes, based on a \$65-a-month board and room bill with lunches figured at 51 cents a day and Sunday dinners at \$1.33, both extra charges. Clothing had risen \$95 to an annual figure of \$262.63.

The committee found that nor-

mal medical and dental care in 1947 would cost \$82.87; care of the person, including all cosmetics, \$66.16; savings, for emergency use only, were allotted \$85; recreation came to \$117.92; carfare, \$68.17; gifts, \$16.91; association dues, \$21.94; stationery and postage, \$3.43; church and charity contributions, \$14.50, and incidentals, \$19.24. All these figures are on a yearly, not a monthly basis.

"This budget is obviously not a photographic reproduction of what any specific group of women bought at a given time and place," the report says. "It measures the cost of a standard of health and efficiency. It is not designed to show how single women ought to spend their money, because there is no one best way of spending. One woman may prefer to spend more on reading matter and less on beauty parlors, another may need more or less dental care than the amount specified here, but every woman's budget should include something for recreation, personal upkeep and the dentist, even though the allocation of sums to be spent is a matter of individual preference or necessity."

Prices for the Heller Committee report were collected by experienced shoppers in retail outlets in San Francisco during a two-week period last September in stores, beauty parlors, movie theaters, etc., actually patronized by the occupational and income group being studied.

No Atomic Overtime

Knoxville, Tenn.—Federal Judge George C. Taylor turned down a suit by 385 Oak Ridge firemen and construction workers for \$2 million in overtime wages and damages on grounds that the atomic bomb was not "goods intended for commerce." He said the atomic workers were not covered by the wage-hour law, which provides a 40-hour week for labor employed on commercial products.

Attacks GOP



Republicans are using inflation as an excuse to return labor to the Dark Ages, Rep. Mary Norton (D., N.J.) charged as she blasted GOP efforts to repeal the 40-hour week provision of the wage-hour law on the grounds it would increase production.

BRT Recommends
Anti-Inflation
6-Pt. Program

The Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen recently recommended the following program to combat inflation:

(1) The authorization of consumer rationing and price ceilings for products in short supply which basically affect the cost of living. These authorizations are necessary if wage and salary earners are to be protected in their efforts to maintain decent living standards. Without such controls, the only classes in the community whose living standards will continue to be maintained and even enhanced are the recipients of sharply increasing profits. Furthermore, a rationing of scarce commodities which are in demand for shipment to Europe should be supplemented by limitation orders to make available the greatest possible total supply of such commodities for domestic and foreign use.

(2) As a supplement to price control, there should be provisions for mandatory roll-backs by as much as 25 per cent in food prices and 10 to 15 per cent in the prices of industrial materials. This is necessary to restore some of the purchasing power of consumers which has been cut away in the past two years and to make possible the stimulation of low cost homes and lower prices for consumer durable goods.

(3) The authorization of allocation and inventory control. This is necessary to give small and independent business enterprise access to materials that will enable them to continue in business and eliminate the black market in materials in scarce supply.

(4) Adoption of a corporation excess profits tax. Removal of the excess profits tax has encouraged big business to profiteer. In view of the amount of purchasing power being drained from the system in the form of profits the adoption of an excess profits tax is imperative.

(5) Adoption of the proposal to place a floor under wages at 65 cents per hour and within two years to 75 cents an hour by amendment to the Fair Labor Standards Act.

(6) An amendment to the current rent control law to provide a really effective rent control law.

CONSPIRACY?

Rep. Hartley is said to be looking with a fishy eye at a campaign in Prince Georges County, Md., to have the county's name spelled with an apostrophe. It would then read Prince Georges' County. Hartley is suspicious of a feather-bedding conspiracy by the union printers.

Whirling Good Time



Her skirts billowing breezily, Diane Van Dusen is having a wonderful time pirouetting in the Florida sun. No doubt the on-lookers are enjoying themselves too.

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